

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given a telephone interviews with Mr. Larry Nixon on Mar 3, 2009.

3. Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A communications network comprising:

a communications station;

electrical transmission lines connecting the communications station to user terminations;

data transmission means;

optical carriers connecting the data transmission means to at least one interface, located between the communications station and user terminations, for converting optical signals from an optical carrier into electrical signals for transmission over one at least of the electrical transmission lines;

wherein, in respect of at least downstream transport, and for each of a plurality of user terminations requiring data service:

(a) a dedicated one of said optical carriers is provided;

(b) the data transmission means comprises modulation means for converting input data signals into output signals suitable for transmission over the electrical

Art Unit: 2614

transmission lines, followed by means for modulating the output signals onto an optical signal;

(c) the interface has optoelectrical conversion means arranged to recover said output signals and feed them to the electrical transmission line serving the relevant user termination; and

wherein, at least in respect of upstream transmission:

(d) the communication station has associated therewith a light source for generating a plurality of optical seed signals at different respective wavelengths; and

(e) there is provided, for each of the user terminations, a light generating device capable of predominantly generating light at a selected one of a plurality of predetermined wavelengths, the light generating devices each being arranged to receive a respective seed signal such that the wavelength of the light generated by a given light generating device is determined by the received seed signal

wherein

the light generating devices are each connected to a respective electrical transmission line serving the relevant user terminal such that data from a given user terminal can be transmitted upstream by the light emitting device connected to that user terminal, and

the light generating devices are fed with DC power over the electrical transmission lines.

4. Claims 15 -16 have been cancelled.

CONCLUSION

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to PHUNG-HOANG J. NGUYEN whose telephone number is (571)270-1949. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday, 8:30AM - 5:00PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Curtis Kuntz can be reached on 571 272 7499. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/CURTIS KUNTZ/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2614

/Phung-Hoang J Nguyen/
Examiner, Art Unit 2614